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High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Ensuring effective secretariat support for sustained follow-up to the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.62

Twenty-fifth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/57/32), in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.62.

2. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the statement, under the terms of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.62, the General Assembly would, inter alia: (a) request the Secretary-General to establish appropriate secretariat support arrangements along the lines of those described in paragraph 48 of his report on the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/57/344); (b) decide that the functions of the new secretariat support would be similar to those outlined in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution (also indicated in para. 2 (b) of the statement); (c) request the Secretary-General to accord priority to the tasks enumerated in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution (see also para. 2 (c) of the statement); and (d) decide to implement the provisions of the draft resolution by utilizing existing resources, starting at the beginning of 2003.

3. The Advisory Committee notes, from paragraph 3 of the statement, that the related activities to be carried out relate to programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and to section 9 (Economic and social affairs), section 2 (General Assembly affairs and conference

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services) and section 27 (Management and central support services) of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

4. The functions called for in draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.62 would be carried out by a new Financing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as indicated in paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's statement of programme budget implications. Moreover, in the interest of optimizing the use of existing resources, it would be the intention of the Secretary-General "to carry out the programme of work envisaged under the draft resolution through consolidation of finance aspects of development and the redeployment of related staff resources under relevant subprogrammes in the newly established Financing for Development Office for the duration of the biennium 2002-2003" (see para. 6). The proposed staff resources of the new office would consist of 19 posts (14 Professional and 5 General Service). Out of this proposed total, 13 regular budget posts would be redeployed from within the Department, including 10 Professional (2 D-1, 2 P-5, 2 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 P-2) and 3 General Service posts, in addition to which 6 new posts would be required (1 D-2, 1 P-5, 1P-4, 1 P-3 and 2 General Service).

5. The Advisory Committee notes, however, that for the biennium 2002-2003 the Secretary-General is only requesting additional resources related to the new D-2 level post for the head of the new Financing for Development Office, since other post and non-post resources would be met through ad hoc interim measures and the utilization of residual extrabudgetary resources, as indicated in paragraph 7 of the statement. However, as indicated in paragraph 8, such additional resources would be requested in the context of his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

6. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposal that the Financing for Development Office be headed by an official at the D-2 level and recommends that the Secretary-General proceed with the necessary action to fill the position at this level. However, in addition to the post under consideration, there are currently 10 posts at the D-2 level in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In this connection, the Committee will revert to this matter in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005, taking into account the review referred to in paragraph 9 of the Secretary-General's report on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/57/85), including information provided to the Committee with respect to the restructuring of the Department.**

7. **The Fifth Committee may therefore wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/57/L. 62, additional expenditures of $203,200 would arise under the programme budget for 2002-2003. The provision, representing a potential charge against the contingency fund, would be considered in the context of the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates to be presented to the Fifth Committee at the end of the current session.**